

Durham Research Online

Deposited in DRO:

04 November 2015

Version of attached file:

Accepted Version

Peer-review status of attached file:

Not peer-reviewed

Citation for published item:

Skeates, R. (2014) 'Editorial.', *European journal of archaeology.*, 17 (3). pp. 367-368.

Further information on publisher's website:

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1179/1461957114Z.00000000081>

Publisher's copyright statement:

Additional information:

Use policy

The full-text may be used and/or reproduced, and given to third parties in any format or medium, without prior permission or charge, for personal research or study, educational, or not-for-profit purposes provided that:

- a full bibliographic reference is made to the original source
- a [link](#) is made to the metadata record in DRO
- the full-text is not changed in any way

The full-text must not be sold in any format or medium without the formal permission of the copyright holders.

Please consult the [full DRO policy](#) for further details.

Editorial

Robin Skeates

The General Editor

Durham University, UK

Welcome to the third issue of the *European Journal of Archaeology* for 2014. Here, we present six general articles and nine book reviews. Below, I summarize and assess their significance to European archaeology.

John Chapman and his colleagues report on the results of two international research projects on the Chalcolithic Trypillia culture ‘mega-sites’ of Ukraine. They emphasize the impact that the application of new geophysical methods is having on our understanding of sites such as Nebelivka, Taljanky, Maydanetske and Dobrovody and Apolianka. Through the use of advanced gradiometers, entire settlement plans can now be seen, as well as individual structures and groupings of structures, which in turn enable new estimates of settlement size and house numbers to be made. These extensive and detailed new patterns also invite discussion in terms of the ordering of social space. Although geophysicists might regard the methodological developments presented here more in terms of ‘evolution’ than ‘revolution’, there is no doubting the

importance of this paper in demonstrating the value of excellent geomagnetic fieldwork combined with careful interpretation.

Stéphanie Bréhard and her colleagues present the results of their state-of-the-art research into the season-at-death of domestic sheep and wild fish at two Eneolithic, Gumelnița culture, tell sites in south-east Romania. Through the measurement and sophisticated statistical treatment of caprine dental wear and fish sizes, they identify a complementary animal protein food supply strategy pursued at both Hârșova and Bordușani-Popină, with the slaughtering of young domestic sheep centred on early or-mid winter in contrast to fishing activities taking place primarily from spring to early autumn. They also raise the possibility that husbandry practices were standardized at other Gumelnița sites. Of course, without evaluating the seasonality of other domestic animals, not to mention plant foods, this study provides only part of the story, but it is a methodologically rigorous step in the right direction.

Ana Jorge investigates social networks in Late Neolithic Portugal by examining artefact provenance, circulation and deposition on the Mondego Plateau, focussing on three sites (the settlements of Ameal and Murganho 2 and the dolmen of Fiais da Telha) and four object categories (pottery, amphibolite tools, flint blades, and stone beads). Her study reveals a great diversity of raw materials, the circulation of everyday objects, and the regional availability of resources previously thought to be imports. Interpreting these patterns, Jorge challenges established ways of archaeological thinking about the Iberian Late Neolithic (dominated by studies of megalithic tomb architecture and ritual) by seeing objects, settlements and tombs as entangled in rich and dynamic webs of social relations, with exchange as an integral

part of routine life. This is a refreshing and novel perspective, which dissolves some of the dichotomies (ritual/domestic, local/exotic) that have tended to dominate discussion of megalithic landscapes and collective burials in Iberia.

Oliver Dietrich's article deals with a subject of European significance – Bronze Age hoards. It focusses on the large, so called 'scrap hoards' of the Late Bronze Age found in the Carpathian basin, which have generally been interpreted as raw material collected for re-melting. Dietrich reinterprets these as long-term accumulations of fragmented votive objects. More specifically, he interprets socketed axes filled with fragments of other objects as 'miniature hoards' within larger accumulations of fragmented metal. This is a well informed and persuasively argued piece of research, which deservedly won the European Association of Archaeologists' Student Award in 2013.

Jesús Bermejo and Alejandro Quevedo present the results of their painstaking contextual analysis of the artefact assemblages deposited in a Roman house known as the Fortuna *domus* at Cartagena in Spain, with the aim of providing a social and economic reading of the household activities undertaken by the building's successive inhabitants. In particular, they identify a substantial increase in economic activity (production, redistribution and consumption) within this domestic unit during the second century AD; an increase that contrasts with the established historiographic narrative of urban decay at Cartagena at this time. However, the key question remains as to whether the materials being studied pertain specifically to this house and its occupants.

Neil Price and Paul Mortimer draw our attention to the shimmering aesthetic effects of the decorated helmet from the famous Anglo-Saxon ship burial at Sutton Hoo in England, and consider their impact on viewers in the fire-lit interior of a lord's hall. More specifically, they focus on the intentional removal or alteration of one eye on the helmet, finding parallels in one-eyed mask-helmets from Scandinavia and Germany. Leading on from this, they argue that the warlord wearing the helmet could have been seen as a literal personification of Odin, the god of war and wisdom. Price and Mortimer's article offers us a convincing, original and deeply researched argument, and a fascinating and enjoyable read.

In the reviews section, we begin with evaluations of a series of important edited volumes on ideologies in archaeology, gender prehistory, central European prehistory (dedicated to the Hungarian archaeologist Pál Raczky), and social transformations in later prehistoric Europe. We then turn to two more equally important — if slightly more specialised — volumes, on dating the Early Neolithic enclosures of southern Britain and Ireland and on historical archaeology in central Europe. We then close with three books on the history of archaeology and related fields, extending from a history of treasure hunting in Europe and America, to an edited volume on histories of archaeological fieldwork, to the latest biography of John Lubbock.

If you are interested in submitting an article on any aspect of European archaeology, or have recently published a book that you would like us to review, or have a suggestion for a special issue of the *EJA*, do please get in touch with a member of our editorial team or visit us on <http://www.maney.co.uk/index.php/journals/eja/>.